

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MASERU 00548 231637Z

50

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 IO-10 EB-07 TRSE-00

FRB-03 CIEP-01 AID-05 /098 W
----- 038686

R 231350Z MAY 75

FM AEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4896

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 548

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, LT, CH, TW

SUBJECT: GOL FOREIGN MINISTER VISIT TO PRC

REF: MASERU 512 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER JONATHAN HAS DEFENDED KOTSOKOANE VISIT TO PRC ON GROUNDS OF LESOTHO'S NEEDS FOR NEW FRIENDS AND SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE. THERE ARE INDICATIONS HE IS PREPARED, EVEN IN FACE OF OPPOSITION, TO CONSIDER CHANGING GOL'S POSITION ON ROC/PRC ISSUE IF PRC WOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY GENEROUS IN PROVIDING AID TO LESOTHO.

2. SPEAKING AT LARGE PUBLIC MEETING AT QUTHING, SOUTHERN LESOTHO, ON MAY 18, PRIME MINISTER JONATHAN JUSTIFIED FOREIGN MINISTER KOTSOKOANE'S VISIT TO PRC ON BASIS THAT LESOTHO MUST PURSUE OUTWARD LOOKING FOREIGN POLICY TO GAIN NEW FRIENDS AND SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE. HE SAID LESOTHO COULD NOT MAINTAIN A STATIC FOREIGN POLICY WHILE OTHER NATIONS OF DIFFERING IDEOLOGIES WERE ENGAGED IN DETENTE. SAID LESOTHO FOLLOWS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MASERU 00548 231637Z

A DYNAMIC POLICY OF MAKING FRIENDS AMONG OTHER NATIONS

REGARDLESS OF THEIR IDEOLOGIES AND FORMS OF GOVERNMENT AS LONG AS SUCH FRIENDSHIPS DO NOT INTERFERE WITH LESOTHO'S INTEGRITY, BELIEFS, AND FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

3. REACTION AMONG GENERAL PUBLIC TO KOTSOKOANE'S VISIT, NEAR AS EMBASSY CAN GAUGE IT, IS SURPRISE AND DISAPPROVAL. WIDELY READ SESOTHO LANGUAGE PAPER LESELINYANA, PUBLISHED BY CATHOLIC CHURCH, RAN FULL TEXT OF UNATTRIBUTED PAMPHLET WHICH HAD APPEARED ON STREETS OF LESOTHO ATTACKING VISIT, THUS ASSURING PAMPHLET WIDE DISTRIBUTION. GIST OF PAMPHLET IS THAT VISIT TO PRC BY A GOVERNMENT MINISTER IS BETRAYAL OF ANTI-COMMUNIST POSITION ON WHICH JONATHAN AND BASUTOLAND NATIONAL PARTY (BNP) RAN AND WON ELECTION OF 1965, LAST ELECTION HELD IN LESOTHO AND ONLY BASIS FOR BNP'S REMAINING IN POWER.

4. ACCORDING TO PRESS AND RADIO REPORTS, KOTSOKOANE HAS BEEN WARMLY RECEIVED IN CHINA. AT BANQUET IN HIS HONOR GIVEN BY PRC FOREIGN MINISTER, TWO MINISTERS REPORTEDLY EXCHANGED CONGRATULATORY TOASTS IN TERMS USUALLY USED BETWEEN NATIONS WHICH ALREADY HAVE RELATIONS. KOTSOKOANE REPORTEDLY ALSO HAS HAD INTERVIEW WITH CHOU.

5. ROC MISSION IN LESOTHO APPEARS TO BE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT IMPLICATIONS OF KOTSOKOANE'S VISIT BUT IS CONDUCTING BUSINESS AS USUAL. ROC AMBASSADOR LIU HOSTED VERY LARGE RECEPTION MAY 21. IN HONOR OF VISITING 23-MAN INVESTMENT MISSION FROM TAIWAN; SEVERAL HIGH-RANKING GOL OFFICIALS, INCLUDING DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, WERE IN CONSPICUOUS ATTENDANCE. (LIU STILL BELIEVES KOTSOKOANE VISIT IS BEGINNING OF PATTERN OF CLOSER TIES BETWEEN LESOTHO AND COMMUNIST COUNTRIES; HE CLAIMS TO HAVE INSIDE REPORTS THAT KOTSOKOANE ALSO PLANS TO VISIT NORTH KOREA AND SOVIET UNION AND THAT GOL WILL ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA.)

6. AN INDEPENDENT RELIABLE SOURCE HAS CONFIRMED THAT SPLIT IN CABINET OVER ISSUE OF KOTSOKOANE VISIT WAS ALONG LINES REPORTED REFTEL AND ADDED THAT MINISTER OF JUSTICE C. D. MOLAPO WAS ALSO OPPOSED. THIS SOURCE ALSO CONFIRMS THAT ANTI-VISIT PAMPHLET WAS PUT OUT BY BNP MEMBERS AND WAS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MASERU 00548 231637Z

WRITTEN BY MOLAPO.

7. SEPARATE SOURCE WHO IN POSITION TO KNOW HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT KOTSOKOANE WILL REQUEST PRC ASSISTANCE IN BUILDING NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT NEAR MASERU. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE RUMORS THAT KOTSOKOANE IS CARRYING LONGER SHOPPING LIST INCLUDING WATER DEVELOPMENT SCHEME AND EXTENSIVE ROAD CONSTRUCTION.

8. COMMENT. MOST INTRIGUING QUESTION, WHICH EMBASSY CANNOT ANSWER, IS ONE OF PRIME MINISTER JONATHAN'S POSITION ON VISIT. THERE SEVERAL INDICATIONS HE ONLY RELUCTANTLY AND BELATEDLY APPROVED VISIT. ON OTHER HAND, IT UNLIKELY HE WOULD HAVE GIVEN APPROVAL, ESPECIALLY IN FACE OF SUBSTANTIAL PARTY OPPOSITION, UNLESS HE HIMSELF WAS IN FAVOR. IF, AS SEEMS LIKELY IN LIGHT OF HIS SPEECH AT QUTHING AND FACT THAT KOTSOKOANE WILL REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM PRC, HE IS CONSIDERING WHETHER PRC OR ROC WOULD BE MORE HELPFUL FRIEND, HE PRESUMABLY IS PREPARED TO CHOOSE PRC IF IT IS WILLING TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT ENTICEMENT. ANY PRC AID OFFER WOULD HAVE TO BE SUBSTANTIAL TO ENABLE PM TO OVERCOME OPPOSITION WITHIN AND WITHOUT PARTY TO CHANGING SIDES ON ROC/PRC ISSUE. ANOTHER QUESTION TO BE ANSWERED IS WHETHER PRC COULD, IN PRACTICE, ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE AID MISSION IN LESOTHO, GIVEN NECESSITY OF ACCESS THROUGH SOUTH AFRICA AND DIFFICULTY LESOTHO WOULD HAVE IN MEETING "LOCAL COSTS" WHICH WE UNDERSTAND IS COMCOMITANT OF PRC AID.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY IS REFRAINING FROM COMMENTING ON OR BEING DRAWN INTO SPECULATIVE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT KOTSOKOANE VISIT. IF WE WERE EMPHATICALLY TO EXPRESS OPPOSITION TO LESOTHO'S RELATIONS WITH PRC, IT WOULD PROBABLY CARRY SOME WEIGHT WHEN AND IF GOL EVER DELIBERATELY CONSIDERS PROS AND CONS OF CHOOSING BETWEEN PRC AND ROC. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S AND AMBASSADOR'S ADVICE AS TO WHETHER WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO REFRAIN FROM COMMENT.
HAUGHT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MASERU00548
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750182-0102
From: MASERU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750523/aaaaauuo.tel
Line Count: 144
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MASERU 512
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOL FOREIGN MINISTER VISIT TO PRC
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, LT, CH, TW, (KOTSOKOANE, JOSEPH R L)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006